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Viewing cable 06CAIRO5430, AMBASSADOR SCHULTE DISCUSSES IRAN WITH FM ABOL

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#06CAIRO5430**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
06CAIRO5430	2006-08-31 10:33	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Cairo

Appears in these articles:

[not](#)
[yet](#)
[set](#)

null
Brooke F Adams 09/06/2006 09:40:47 AM From DB/Inbox: Brooke F Adams

Cable
Text:

C O N F I D E N T I A L

CAIRO 05430

SIPDIS
CXCAIRO:

ACTION: POL

INFO: RSO PA ORA OMC LEGAT IPS ECON DEA DCM DAO CONS
AMB AID

DISSEMINATION: POL
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: DCM:SJONES
DRAFTED: ECPO:LSKENNA
CLEARED: ECPO:CHH/WS

VZCZCCRI230
PP RUEHC RUCNIRA

DE RUEHEG #5430/01 2431033
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 311033Z AUG 06
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0988
INFO RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 005430

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/30/2016

TAGS: [PREL](#) [UNSC](#) [EG](#) [IR](#) [LE](#) [IS](#) [KNNP](#)

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR SCHULTE DISCUSSES IRAN WITH FM ABOUL GHEIT

Classified By: DCM Stuart Jones for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

Summary

¶1. (C) U.S. Permanent Representative to the UN Mission in Vienna Ambassador Schulte discussed Iran's nuclear weapons program with Foreign Minister Aboul Gheit on August 28. Aboul Gheit warned Ambassador Schulte that the U.S. handling of Lebanon had strengthened Iran, that economic sanctions against Iran would not work, and that military action would spur Iran to target U.S. personnel in Iraq. Aboul Gheit said he had told Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mohamed Baqiri that Iran must be more flexible and transparent with its nuclear program. He also urged the U.S. to prove it is serious about the Middle East Peace Process, explaining that this would deprive Iran of the support of the Muslim world. Referring to the upcoming General Conference, Aboul Gheit pledged to support the U.S. on Iran in a manner that will not embarrass Egypt. End summary.

Warning Against Sanctions

¶2. (C) Aboul Gheit told Ambassador Schulte that Egypt does not want Iran to have a military nuclear capability because then Israel would never denuclearize, and it would spark others in the region to acquire nuclear weapons. An economic embargo, he observed, will not produce results because opportunists in adjoining countries will violate sanctions. Questioning Russian and Chinese support for sanctions, Aboul Gheit said that without China's support, Iran will cast the nuclear issue as one between the West and the Muslim world. Ambassador Schulte said Russia and China are concerned about, but increasingly resigned to, endorsing targeted sanctions against Iran. The U.S. must not, Aboul Gheit urged, take military action against Iran because it would drive Iran to target oil supplies and U.S. personnel in Iraq.

Peace Process is Key

¶3. (C) Aboul Gheit advised the international community to "give Iran a package that will tie their hands." Making progress on the Middle East Peace Process, he stressed, would deny Iran the support of the Muslim world. He explained that the Lebanon crisis has led millions of Egyptians to believe Iran should acquire nuclear weapons. Aboul Gheit said the U.S. must understand the depth of Arab frustration over Israel's daily humiliation of the Arab people. Iran is exploiting this frustration, Aboul Gheit noted, by working with Hamas, Hizbollah, insurgents in Iraq, and perhaps even with the Taliban. The U.S. (not the British or the French) must diffuse the tension in the region by reengaging in the Peace Process.

Iran's Response to the Package

¶4. (C) Ambassador Schulte said the U.S. believes Iran has already decided to develop a nuclear weapons capability. Ambassador Schulte noted that Iran's response to the P5 1 offer reaffirmed its unwillingness to halt enrichment and indicated that regional security would need to be addressed before other matters. Aboul Gheit warned that the U.S. would lose friends if it discusses regional security with Iran without including Egypt and Jordan. He said the Secretary had agreed to include Egypt and Jordan in any future discussions with Gulf foreign ministers on Iran. Ambassador Schulte reassured Aboul Gheit that the U.S. was not interested in pursuing regional security discussions with Iran under the present circumstances.

GOE Pressure on Iran

¶5. (C) Aboul Gheit said he told Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mohamed Baqiri in a meeting August 27 to be flexible and transparent when negotiating on its nuclear program. Ambassador Schulte asked for Egypt's support on Iran at the NAM summit and the upcoming General Conference. Noting that he (not Mubarak) will go to Cuba, Aboul Gheit agreed to support the U.S., but said "we will do this without embarrassing ourselves. We will tell (Iran) publicly what we say to them privately." Ambassador Schulte advised that the General Conference will focus on the peaceful uses of nuclear power. Aboul Gheit called the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) a "good project" and asked for additional information on the concept. He also thanked Ambassador Schulte for providing information on the Concept Paper on Reliable Access to Nuclear Fuel. Aboul Gheit acknowledged that the GOE tends to prolong internal studies of concepts like the GNEP and said it would be helpful if the U.S. would continue to provide background information.

Additional Protocol

¶6. (C) Aboul Gheit said Egypt will not sign the Additional Protocol (AP) at this time, confirming that the obstacle is the fact that Israel is not a party to the NPT. In a separate conversation, Aboul Gheit's Disarmament Office Director Hossam Aly expressed frustration at the move to make the AP the international standard when it was originally intended to be optional. But, Aly qualified, if Israel becomes party to the NPT, Egypt would sign the AP the same day, "or even a day earlier."

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